

# SFHCHS21

## Undertake assessment of an individual's hearing



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### Overview

This standard covers undertaking hearing tests in a variety of care settings under the direction of a health care professional.

The designated health professional, prior to the procedure, will undertake ear assessment and then delegate the hearing test to the appropriate person. This person might be you or another health professional depending upon the needs of the individual concerned.

The standard covers the administration of the test but not the evaluation of the results; this will be done by the requesting health care professional.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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### Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control any other relevant health and safety measures
  - P2 check the individual's identity and confirm the planned activity
  - P3 give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
  - P4 gain valid consent to carry out the planned activity
  - P5 inform the individual of the start of test and give clear instructions throughout
  - P6 help the individual to put on the earphones at the start of the procedure and to remove them at the end
  - P7 commence the test using the procedure guidelines or protocol
  - P8 monitor the individual for adverse reactions and halt the test if any occur
  - P9 tell the supervising health professional of any adverse reactions without delay
  - P10 tell the individual when the test is ended
  - P11 answer questions within your responsibility and refer any questions outside of your responsibility to the appropriate health care professional
  - P12 give follow up advice and instructions following the procedure, adhering to guidelines, protocols and local policy, at a level and manner that the individual can understand
  - K1 complete the audiology report as instructed in the procedure guidelines/protocol
  - K2 record results accurately and legibly in the individuals file and report your results to the referring clinician
  - P13 undertake any post procedural instructions from the referring clinician

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K3 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to undertaking assessment of an individual's hearing
- K4 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
- K5 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
- K6 the importance of applying standard precautions to undertaking an assessment of an individual's hearing and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K7 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence when and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
- K8 any reasons why you would not perform the test
- K9 possible adverse reactions to the test and which members of the health care team you would report these to
- K10 health and safety requirements in relation to the equipment being used
- K11 the importance of correct manual handling of the equipment according to legislation and local policy
- K12 the anatomy of the normal ear and the physiology hearing
- K13 problems encountered by people with hearing difficulties
- K14 the different reasons/causes of hearing impairment
- K15 the various levels of hearing loss
- K16 the implications of any language, sensory deficits or levels of understanding that the individual may have, on performing the test
- K17 how hearing difficulties may affect communication
- K18 the different methods of communication you may have to use
- K19 good practice in obtaining consent, the different methods of obtaining consent and what you would do if consent was refused
- K20 the materials and equipment required to undertake assessment of an individual's hearing
- K21 how to maintain the equipment according to manufacturer's instructions
- K22 how to obtain supplies for the equipment
- K23 the procedures and recommended timescales for calibration of the equipment according to manufacturers instructions
- K24 how to prepare and administer hearing test as directed by a clinician
- K25 what follow up advice you would give to individuals after the procedure
- K26 what you would record and where you would record this information
- K27 the importance of keeping accurate and up to date records

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K28 the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

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### Additional Information

#### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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**Developed by** Skills for Health

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**Version number** 1

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**Date approved** June 2010

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**Indicative review date** June 2012

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**Validity** Current

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**Status** Original

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**Originating organisation** Skills for Health

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**Original URN** CHS 21

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**Relevant occupations** Health, Public Services and Care; Health and Social Care; Managers and Senior Officials; Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations; Health and Social Services Officers; Health Associate Professionals; Personal Service Occupations; Healthcare and Related Personal Services

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**Suite** Clinical Health Skills

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**Key words** Audiometer, earphones, ear test

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